

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/466,965	TSUKAMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Tongoc Tran	Art Unit 2134

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 9/1/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5 and 9-11.
3. The drawings filed on 20 December 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/30/2004
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shawn Cage on 4/27/2005.

In Claims:

On page 3, claim 1, replace "sent to the host" with - --"send from the host"--.
Cancel claims 17-19.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9-11 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to an authentication system contains in a fingerprint identification apparatus which allows important data such as a private key to be safely stored. The system authenticates the user through a fingerprint identification apparatus, which communicates locally with a host computer (e.g. personal computer). The host computer has an input means for the user to input a user instruction (e.g. generates keys; encrypting or decrypting text transmitted from the host computer) and

an output means for generating a user's instruction to an instruction command which requests a predetermined processing to be executed and for outputting it. The key is generated and accessed from the fingerprint identification apparatus according to user's instruction when the verification from the fingerprint identification apparatus is confirmed by matching the detected user fingerprint with the user stored fingerprint resides in the memory of the fingerprint identification apparatus. Since the key is not stored in the host computer and transmitting the key information is not necessary, the key is safely stored. The closest prior art, Pare Jr. discloses a Biometric Authentication System used to authenticate user in transaction and transmission. The authentication is based on a correlative comparison of a biometric sample such as fingerprint or voice from the user and the previously stored biometrics sample. Pare Jr. discloses the Biometric authentication system receives commands from an external interface of a controlling terminal and when a command is completes, a response is sent from the Biometric system to the external terminal. The Biometric system of Pare Jr. further discloses receive command to generate a 56-bit random key to be used to encrypt any message body and the message key is then added to the biometric PIC block. Although Pare Jr. broadly discloses "the public key is used to encrypt a DES key (symmetric key) and the DES key is used to encrypt a message, The BIA uses public key cryptosystems to provide a secure exchange of secret key" (Pare, col. 22, lines 26-35). However, Pare Jr. does not explicitly disclose accessing the generated private key, decrypts a symmetric key, and decrypts the encrypted text using the decrypted symmetric key when the user's instruction specifies a decryption of an encrypted text as recites in

claims 1 and 9. Therefore, the above mentioned limitation is patentably distinct from the cited prior art. The art of record neither singly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above underline limitation and Applicant's remark in the Brief pages 9-10 obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tongoc Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3843. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on (571) 272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: Tongoc Tran
Art Unit: 2134

TT

April 27, 2005


GREGORY MORSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100